

**Branham Family Papers**  
S 3199, OB 3 folder 29, V 76  
1812-1896  
4 folders, 1 os folder, 11 vols.

Rare Books and Manuscripts Division  
Indiana State Library

Processed by: Barbara Hilderbrand, April 2007

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**Biographical Note:**

David C. Branham was born August 29, 1812. He worked as a railroad man, miller, farmer, contractor, lumber dealer, and served as superintendent of Jeffersonville, Madison, and Indianapolis Railroad for 12 years. He was also a contractor for the Shelbyville and Rushville Railroad, the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railroad, and the Rockport and Southwestern Railroad. He married Cynthia A. Watson in 1833, and they had seven children. He was a Whig and Republican member of the Indiana House of Representatives 1855-1867 and 1873; he served as speaker in 1867. He was elected to the Indiana Senate in 1877 to complete the term of John Loftin Roe. David C. Branham died February 20, 1877.

Cynthia A. Watson Branham was born about 1819 in Kentucky. She married David C. Branham in 1833.

William Branham was born about 1848 to David C. and Cynthia A. Branham. He served in the 137th Indiana Infantry Regiment during the Civil War and was honorably discharged in 1864.

*Sources:*

Rebecca A. Shepherd ... [et al.], eds. A Biographical directory of the Indiana General Assembly v. 2. Indianapolis : Select Committee on the Centennial History of the Indiana.  
Ancestry Library. Indiana State Library. 23 Apr. 2007. <<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>>

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains David Branham's letters to his wife, Cynthia, written while he was supervising railroad construction in Martinsville, his diaries discussing politics, railroad work, and personal matters. Also included are family letters written during the Civil War, legal and business papers, minutes of the Soldiers Aid Society of North Madison, Indiana, and a certificate of thanks to William Branham for serving as a volunteer during the Civil War.

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## Folder Listing:

### Folder

1. Correspondence, 1812-1865
2. Correspondence, 1867-1893
3. Papers, 1877-1896
4. Specifications for building the new State Capital of Indiana, circa 1870s

### Volumes.

- V76-1 Diary, 1861
- V76-2 Soldiers Aid Society of North Madison Minutes, 1862-1864
- V76-3 Diary, 1866
- V76-4 Diary, 1866
- V76-5 Diary, 1867
- V76-6 Diary, 1868
- V76-7 Personal Memorandum Book, 1869
- V76-8 Reference book for Mechanics and Engineers, 1869
- V76-9 Diary, 1872
- V76-10 Diary, 1873
- V76-11 Scrapbook, undated

### OB 3 folder 29.

- 1864 Oct. 1 Certificate of thanks to William Branham for serving as a volunteer during the Civil War.

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## Collection Information:

- Size of Collection:* 4 folders (46 items), 1 oversize folder (1 item), 11 volumes
- Collection Dates:* 1812-1896
- Provenance:* Helen M. Crane, 22 September and 17 October 1950
- Access:* This collection is open for research.
- Restrictions:* None
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Materials are entirely in English

*Alternate Formats:*

None

*Related Holdings:*

*Notes:*

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